

From: Paul Simons
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/20/02 11:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment. I believe that Microsoft has had to both accomodate and compete with other vendors of office, graphics, internet, and operating system software. The sheer reality of this medium is the result of standards coming into wide acceptance and useability. Just as 117 volt alternating current won out as the standard for electricity, Windows has won out as the standard operating system. However it is not a monopoly - I could be writing this document with any number of word processing programs from various vendors, on any of several available operating systems. The Department of Justice could be reading it using one of many internet communication or email packages. If you are using Windows, it is probably because it is readily available and works. If you are using Linux or Apple systems, that indicates there is no monopoly.

It also bears pointing out that Microsoft sells program-writing tools that anyone can use to create software to sell in competition with Microsoft products.

Thanks for reading this, Paul Simons Levittown PA USA

or another victim.

In the news recently, Microsoft has bought much of Silicon Graphics' Patent Portfolio, specifically the patents for OpenGL, which is in direct competition with Microsoft's own DirectX. By buying the patents of the dying competition (SGI also has no air supply), Microsoft can LEGALLY kill the 3D and gaming capabilities of ALL non-Microsoft Operating Systems. Apple will die. They based their new operating system on heavily on OpenGL. Linux will die. Like Apple, they don't have access to Microsoft's DirectX (obviously), and rely heavily on OpenGL to give their system functionality. Who will buy a computer if their kids can't play games on it, especially when Microsoft owns the Office genre and won't allow anyone else to communicate with their product? There's nothing else left. Microsoft owns it all. They have their fingers in with hardware producers now, who will have to exclude other operating systems from their designs in order to appease Microsoft. This isn't relevant to your case, but it is an example of the complete lack of respect Microsoft has for your verdict. They aren't worried in the least. And their business plans continue unaffected and unharmed. They will buy everything that is competition and bury it specifically to harm others. <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/54/23708.html>

I hope that you will consider my points as you decide what to do to bring equity to the PC market.

I'm sorry for being so wordy (and waxing poetic (badly) in a few places), but as a guy who works on computers 12-15 hours a day, Microsoft has honestly lowered my quality of life, and I'd hate to see them get out of yet another trial unscathed. Which, unfortunately, is what looks like is happening. Bill Gates admitted it when he said "We haven't changed our business practices at all."

Think about it. This may be the last Microsoft case that will ever matter.

Best Regards,
Matthew Squires

MTC-00014183_0004